

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for extending an Item, said Item constituting~~
of customizing a discrete storable unit of information, ~~said method~~ comprising the following
steps:
defining an initial discrete storable unit of information having a type structure;
defining an extension representative of a desired additional data structure;
attaching the extension to the type structure of the initial discrete storable unit of
information; and,
creating a new discrete storable unit of information.
~~receiving the Item, the Item comprising a type structure;~~
~~receiving an Extension, the Extension comprising a data structure including a property~~
~~or a relationship; and~~
~~extending the Item using the Extension by providing the data structure to the type~~
~~structure.~~
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said extension ~~Extension~~
cannot exist independently from said type structure of said new discrete storable unit of
information. ~~Item, such that if said Item ceases to exist, said Extension also ceases to exist.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the
following steps:
defining a plurality of extensions, wherein each extension is representative of a
desired additional data structure; and,
attaching the extensions to the type structure of the initial discrete storable unit of
information.
~~wherein said Item is extended by a plurality of Extensions.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said plurality of extensions are ~~Extensions is~~ used to model overlapping type instances.

6-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A hardware/software interface system for manipulating a plurality of ~~Items, wherein an Item constitutes a~~ discrete storable units ~~unit~~ of information, said system comprising a subsystem for:

defining initial discrete storable units of information having a type structure;
defining extensions representative of desired additional data structures;
attaching the extensions to the type structure of the initial discrete storable units of information; and,

creating new discrete storable units of information.
~~receiving the Item, the Item comprising a type structure; receiving an Extension, the Extension comprising a data structure including a property or a relationship; and extending the Item using the Extension by providing the data structure to the type structure.~~

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein said extensions ~~Extension~~ cannot exist independently from said type structure of the new discrete storable units of information. ~~Item, such that if said Item ceases to exist, said Extension also ceases to exist.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, said system further comprising a subsystem for:

defining a plurality of extensions, wherein each extension is representative of a desired additional data structure; and,
attaching the extensions to the type structure of the initial discrete storable units of

information.

~~wherein said Item is extended by a plurality of Extensions.~~

22-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for:

defining an initial discrete storable unit of information having a type structure;

defining an extension representative of a desired additional data structure;

attaching the extension to the type structure of the initial discrete storable unit of information; and,

creating a new discrete storable unit of information.

~~extending an Item, said Item constituting a discrete storable unit of information, said computer-readable instructions comprising instructions for receiving the Item, the Item comprising a type structure; receiving an Extension, the Extension comprising a data structure including a property or a relationship; and extending the Item using the Extension by providing the data structure to the type structure, wherein said Extension is attached to said Item and wherein said Extension also ceases to exist when said Item ceases to exist.~~

39-42 (Cancelled)

43. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial discrete storable unit of information is an Item.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial discrete storable unit of information is a Nested Element.

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the extension represents a specified property.

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46. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the extension represents a specified relationship.

47. (New) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the initial discrete storable units of information are Items.

48. (New) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the initial discrete storable units of information are Nested Elements.

49. (New) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the extensions represent a specified property.

50. (New) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the extensions represent a specified relationship.